1st February 1929]

Public Health

Duties of Health Inspectors.

* 1332 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Health Inspectors are now charged with the duties of drafting plans and estimates for simple sanitary projects and taking steps to remedy defects in village drainage water-supplies besides other duties such as quinine distribution, etc., as per G.O. No. 631, Public Health, dated 5th May 1922; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to direct a proper modification of the duties of Health Inspectors enumerated in the Public Health Code, Part I, pages 56–57?

A.—(*a*) The duties of Health Inspectors may include the preparation of plans and estimates for simple sanitary projects so far as these are within their technical capacity. They may also be required to undertake such other duties as the distribution of quinine.

(*b*) The Government do not consider that any modification is necessary.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the duties mentioned in clause (*a*) are included specifically in the Health Code?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"They are not specifically included in the Health Code."

Drugs tested by the medical officer in charge of leper asylums.

* 1333 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer to clause (ii) (*a*) of question No. 390 answered on 8th October 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what drugs are at present being tested by medical officers in charge of leper asylums and with what result in each case?

A.—The Government consider that it is not desirable to give the names of the drugs which are being tried until they are fully tested and found to be satisfactory. Premature disclosure of the names may result in danger to the public if the drugs are used by men without skill and experience.

Legislative programme of the hon. the Minister for Public Health.

* 1334 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state his legislative programme for the rest of the life of this Council?

A.—At present, steps are being taken to have a Public Health Act drafted.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I have from the hon. Minister any idea as to whether he proposes to introduce any legislation on prohibition?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"At present there is no idea."